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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/729,434	12/05/2000	Mitsuhiko Kadono	001425	6488
23850	7590	05/03/2004		EXAMINER
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP			RAO, SHEELA S	
1725 K STREET, NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 1000			2125	
WASHINGTON, DC 20006			DATE MAILED: 05/03/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2125

1. Applicant's response to the prior Office action (paper no. 5) and amendments to the claim language filed on February 20, 2004 has been received and entered. The amendment, however, **cannot** be considered because the attorney who has signed and filed the amendment is not of record. There is no record of submission of a change of address or power of attorney in the Office files. Appropriate action is required.
2. The timely submission under 37 CFR 1.129(a) filed on February 20, 2004 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because the undersigned attorney of the amendment/response is not of record. Since the submission appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to provide a complete reply to the prior Office action, applicant is given a shortened statutory period of ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing date of this letter, whichever is longer, to submit a complete reply. This shortened statutory period supersedes the time period set in the prior Office action. This time period may be extended pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a). If a notice of appeal and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) were filed prior to or with the payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(r), the payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(r) by applicant is construed as a request to dismiss the appeal and to continue prosecution under 37 CFR 1.129(a). The appeal stands dismissed.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheela Rao whose telephone number is (703) 305-9766. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday - Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (703) 308-0538.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

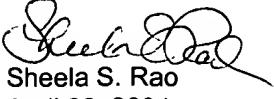
or faxed to:

**(703) 872-9306 for Official Communications**

hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

**Receptionist - Sixth Floor  
Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia**

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

  
Sheela S. Rao  
April 28, 2004



**LEO PICARD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**